

September, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

In 1986 the 0208 Waiver for children under the guidance of all the Child and Family Providers was created. Later DDP began adding adults to the waiver. As of today, adults are the highest number of individuals served in the waiver. Several years ago, DDP determined that as children age out of CWS, the dollars attached to them moved with them into adult services. In order to ensure that children continued to be served, DDP back filled each slot within each Region. The rule for placement was changed effective July 1, 2013. At that time back filling stopped as children aged out. Children's services in the 0208 are gradually going away. The children that have always been in the 0208 are children with the most intense needs. . The average time spent on the waiting list before placement is now 5 years. They can't wait that long. The decrease in the future will also affect adult services for these children as they age out.

Decreases in funding for this waiver will affect many children currently in the waiver and on the wait list in a negative way. Montana has a history of being progressive in services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. It is important to fix what isn't working and not decrease services to individuals and families who have the greatest need for assistance. I urge you to consider the negative impact to children and adults that decreases in funding create. I also respectfully request that the State Of Montana ask CMS for a separate children's waiver to ensure that these services continue to be available in the future.



Sandi Hursh, Children's Services Director

Quality Life Concepts